

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE YELLOW
MEDICINE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GRANITE FALLS, MINNESOTA
March 25, 2003,**

The Yellow Medicine County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 am on Tuesday, March 25, 2003, in the board meeting room. Present were Commissioners Lynn Anderson, Ron Antony, Jane Remiger, Louis Sherlin, and Chairperson Gary Johnson. Also present were, County Auditor Carolyn Sherlin, and news reporters Bethany Norgaard and Dan McGonigle. The chairperson called the meeting to order and the minutes of March 11, 2003 were accepted and approved by the board.

Commissioner reports were given on the Law Library, County Engineer Committee, County Weed Meeting, Bio-terrorism, Regional Railroad, Planning & Zoning, Western Mental Health, Prairie Waters, Sail, Township Annual Meetings, Lions Club Presentation, Regional Development Commission, Pioneer Library, and Prairie Five.

Midge Christianson presented the Community Corrections Annual Report for 2002. Currently under supervision are 208 adult and 180 juvenile offenders which is an 80% increase in the caseload since 2001. She reviewed various other statistics within the four counties of Chippewa, Swift, Lac qui Parle and Yellow Medicine. She praised the sentence-to-serve program stating that it is very effective with community service used for restitution hours.

At 10:00 bids were opened for Grading and Aggregate Surfacing on CSAH 33 and County Road D7. The following bids were received:

R & G Construction Company	\$ 881,087.63
Minnerath Construction	1,013,495.99
Central Specialties	1,286,848.17
Kockelman Construction	787,319.61
Riley Brothers	851,665.20
Peterson Earthmovers	1,152,769.15

Sherlin moved to award project to Kockelman Construction who submitted the low bid of \$787,319.61 and to also approve the Right-of-Way Payments for the above projects, CP 01-33 & CP 01-71. Names of landowners and payment amount are listed on a separate resolution. Antony seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Brad Froland talked about ordering new county highway maps that will include the 911 rural addresses. He showed samples of maps from surrounding counties for comparison and suggested that we include artwork depicting some of the attractions of our county as well as maps of the cities. The county will preview the copy before printing and will continue to make changes until we are satisfied.

After further discussion, Remiger moved to order 6000 maps from Don Pirius Cartographic Services at a cost of \$5555. Anderson seconded motion. Voting yes: Anderson, Johnson, Remiger. Voting no: Antony, Sherlin. Motion passed.

Foreman Larry Stoks discussed the replacement of the remaining fuel tanks. These tanks do not meet the Pollution Control criteria and it is cheaper to remove the old tanks now. Sherlin moved to continue the removal process, Antony seconded, motion carried.

Stoks mentioned that the highway department will bring the old fuel tanks to the Porter sale on April 5th along with a 1991 Chevy pickup that's not being used any more and the old park mower.

Discussion took place on whether to continue weed spraying on county road ditches. This might be one service that could be eliminated to save costs. Remiger mentioned that the townships want to know what we will be doing so that they can plan for their needs. It was mentioned that we used to mow the ditches instead. After further discussion Antony moved to stay with the four year plan as presented earlier, Sherlin seconded, motion carried.

County Treasurer Sharon Schuler requested permission to charge a service fee to all escrow companies who receive tax statements for their clients. Several other counties are currently charging. After discussion, Antony moved to set a fee of \$5 for this service, Remiger seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Willis Beecher and Daryl Ellefson, Lac qui Parle/Yellow Bank Watershed Board, reviewed the tree removal projects they are currently doing. A report on Lazarus Creek Project was also given. They have met with legislators many times in an attempt to secure bonding money from the state for the completion of this project. Johnson asked, because of inflation, if this project going to cost more than the estimates on file from several years ago. Beecher responded they will work with the monies available and if the bids come in too high, they will be rejected.

Jeff Van de Wiele discussed a conditional use permit request submitted by Ron and Diane Fagen to re-zone a tract of approximately 4.6 acres located in Section 4 of Minnesota Falls Township. Land is presently zoned for Urban Expansion and they want to change it to General Business Category. Their purpose is to put up a billboard sign for advertising the ethanol industry on the property, which is not allowed in an urban expansion area. The Planning Commission denied the request for the following reasons:

1. Safety Concerns
2. Site located in environmentally sensitive area
3. Detract from scenic aspect of the area
4. Public opposition from Minnesota Falls Township

Sherlin moved to deny above request, Remiger seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Remiger questioned the role of the County Board of Adjustment who has the final authority to approve or deny all requests for variances from the Land Use Ordinance. None of these requests are ever brought before the county board. She suggested that the Ordinance be re-visited to change the above procedure.

Remiger moved to ratify the minutes and actions of the March 18th Welfare Meeting, Antony seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Sherlin moved to approve Consumption and Display Licenses for the Canby Golf Club and the American Legion Post. Antony seconded motion, all voted in favor.

The auditor reported that a phone call from Ron Fagen indicated that he is willing to lease the Clarkfield Ag Building to the county for the same cost as present. Remiger moved to table the issue until a lease agreement or purchase price is obtained. Antony seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Remiger reported on information received from the ten-county West Central Growth Alliance Group. They would like to host a meeting in Granite Falls with our board members attending and also have invited our county to join their organization. Johnson questioned whether we really need another organization in this area when the Rural Development Commission can do the same type of work. The Alliance is contemplating applying for one of the JOBZ zones if the legislation is passed. Johnson stated that RDC already has the staff to work on this plan if needed. The consensus of the board was not to join at this time.

Discussion was held on the MCIT recommendation for the county to obtain proof of insurance and a hold harmless statement from citizens prior to anyone renting the buildings at the fairgrounds. The auditor will contact MCIT for information.

It was decided to contact the local photographer to arrange an appointment for a new group picture of board members to include the new Family Services Director and Highway Director.

The meeting was recessed at noon for lunch.

At 1:00 pm discussion continued on how to work with the state budget crisis with the projected HACA shortfall of \$213,809 to our county.

Department managers were present to participate in the discussion. The auditor prepared a worksheet showing the pro-rated dollar amount effect on all departments. The Revenue portion is \$108,752, Welfare: \$52,737, and Highway: \$52,319. The county will be looking at various services that could be reduced or cut. Some road projects, including construction, snow plowing, and weed spraying might be delayed. Services in the Welfare Department such as day care assistance, child welfare, and medical payments may be decreased. Department managers discussed various other ways to cut costs within their own departments. Discussion as held on the method used to notify all individuals of various bulletins and information. Antony moved to direct all memos and bulletins to be faxed to board members and e-mailed to departments. Sherlin seconded motion, all voted in favor.

A decision was made to schedule a meeting with officials from the county, cities, public schools, and townships to discuss our mutual concerns and to work together. A suggested date of April 29 was made for the meeting to be held in Clarkfield since that is the center of the county. The county will contact RDC to get assistance on this issue.

The following claims were presented for payment:

REVENUE FUND

American Solutions for Business	241.91
Aramark Correctional Services	6,630.83
Assn of MN Counties	300.00
Canby News, Inc	455.57
CDI Office 1	109.79
Consumers Coop Oil Co	241.10
Cooks Inc	114.26
Countryside Pub Health Service	342.50
CPS Technology Solutions Inc	338.50
Daves Family Foods	286.91
Davis Typewriter Co. Inc	122.31
Ecolab	780.42
Fromm Snyder Drug	986.70
G & K Services Inc	104.28
Keefe Supply Inc	501.00
Thomas Kramer	1,861.32
Ladner Hardware Inc	155.25
Lee & Berner	196.00
Loffler Business Systems Inc	4,730.00
Le Ann Manor	113.51
Mid-American Specialties	165.16
Midwest Community Planning LLC	105.00
Mobile Computer Support, Inc	771.71
Quigley Concrete & Masonry	1,500.00
R & D Safety Inc	277.00
Radisson South	633.36
Southwest MN Foundation	3,320.00
Streichers	383.99
Tri-County Coop Oil Company	117.41
Velvet Uniforms	151.00
West Central Communications Inc	791.70
YMC Highway Department	145.53
Payments less than \$100	971.67
TOTAL	\$27,945.69

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND

Anderson-Crane Rubber Co Inc	134.66
Becker Iron & Metal Inc	117.15
Bornhoft Concrete Inc	141.95
Canby News, Inc	131.25
Duininck Bros & Gilchrist Inc	2,400.00
Exemplar International Inc	200.00

French Glass & Specialty Co	161.46
Ronald Gregg	350.00
Mariehart Surveying	1,994.90
MN Safety Council Inc	100.00
Michael Schaffran	118.65
Toshiba America Info-Sys Inc	236.13
U of M Registrar Govt. 0017	125.00
Gaston Vlaminck	144.84
W.W. Grainger, Inc	327.81
West Central Industries Inc	934.01
Payments less than \$100	923.48
TOTAL	\$8,541.29

DITCH FUND

G & L Repair	512.71
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FINAL TOTAL	\$36,999.69
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Meals & Per diems for the Revenue Fund in the amount of \$66.98 and \$7.40 for the Road & Bridge Fund were also presented. Sherlin moved to approve payment for the above claims, Anderson seconded motion, all voted in favor. As all business for the day was completed, the meeting was on motion, adjourned.

Chairperson, Yellow Medicine
County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Carolyn Sherlin, County Auditor
and Clerk to the County Board